

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his favorable consideration of Claims 3-10, 12-15, and 17-19. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 11, 16, and 20 of the application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,748,895 to Besenzoni. The Office Action stated:

Besenzoni discloses the basic claimed structure including a ramp assembly with a pair of ramp support members 36 supporting a pair of rollers 62, the ramp having side rails with upper and lower rail members, wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members such that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail and the lower rail members. Note that the ramp of Besenzoni is capable of being used for a pontoon boat.

Besenzoni does not anticipate Claims 1, 11, and 20 because the reference fails to teach each of the elements of the claims. With respect to Claims 1 and 11, the claimed invention includes *a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck*. Besenzoni teaches a telescopic gangway that is attached to a boat and includes a hydraulic cylinder for rotating the gangway between a rest position and a functioning position. Besenzoni does not teach or suggest ramp support members *attached beneath the deck* of a pontoon boat. FIG. 1 of Besenzoni illustrates the gangway attached to a boat, but does not illustrate *ramp support members attached beneath the deck*.

The Office Action suggests that the ramp of Besenzoni is capable of being used for a pontoon boat, but the reference does not mention pontoon boats, or the suitability of the ramp to be used with pontoon boats. FIG. 1 of Besenzoni, which illustrates the ramp attached to a boat, teaches away from the use of the ramp with pontoon boats since the figure does not illustrate *ramp support members attached beneath the deck*.

With respect to Claims 11 and 20, the claimed invention includes *a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat AND a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and starboard side of the pontoon boat*. Besenzoni teaches a telescopic gangway that is attached to a boat and includes a hydraulic cylinder for rotating the gangway between a rest position and a functioning position. Besenzoni does not teach or suggest *a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat AND a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and starboard side of the pontoon boat*. FIG. 1 of Besenzoni illustrates the attachment of the gangway to a boat, but does not suggest providing more than one attachment point on the boat for the gangway.

With respect to claim 11, Besenzoni further fails to teach *a removable ramp . . . adapted to be received by one of the first and second ramp hanger in an extended position, thereby providing the walkway for one of the bow, port side, and starboard side of the pontoon boat*. Besenzoni teaches a telescopic gangway that is attached to a boat and includes a hydraulic cylinder for rotating the gangway between a rest position and a functioning position. Besenzoni does not teach that the gangway is removable, or that the gangway can *be received by one of the first and second ramp hanger in an extended position*.

With respect to claim 20, Besenzoni further fails to teach that *the ramp is stowable beneath the deck and between the pontoons of the pontoon boat*. Besenzoni teaches a telescopic gangway that is attached to a boat and includes a hydraulic cylinder for rotating the gangway between a rest position and a functioning position. Besenzoni does not mention pontoon boats, or the suitability of the gangway to be used with pontoon boats. FIG. 1 of Besenzoni illustrates the gangway attached to a boat, but not *beneath the deck and between the pontoons of the pontoon boat*.


Because Besenzoni fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1, 11, and 20, the claims are not anticipated by the reference. It follows that Claims 2 and 16, which depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, are also not anticipated by Besenzoni. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11, 16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for his favorable consideration of Claims 3-10, 12-15, and 17-19. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and such a Notice is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 12/22/04



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